

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 083590

42

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: NEA:EGABINGTON

APPROVED BY: NEA:EGABINGTON

S/S:MR. ORTIZ

----- 096578

O 061729Z APR 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 083590

NODIS

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT BEIRUT 2993, SENT SECSTATE APRIL 6, 1976:

QUOTE S E C R E T BEIRUT 2993

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, LE

SUBJ: DEMORALIZATION OF CHRISTIANS

REF: STATE 81375

1. AS YOU WILL HAVE SEEN FROM MY TOO LONG REPORT OF MY  
TALKS WITH CHRISTIAN LEADERS YESTERDAY. I'VE TAKEN  
GREAT PAINS WITH EACH TO LET THEM KNOW WE ARE SYMPATHETIC  
WITH THEIR PLIGHT AND WANT THEM TO BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE  
FROM STRENGTH AND NOT REPEAT NOT HAVE TO CAPITULATE  
THROUGH WEAKNESS

SECRET

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PAGE 02 STATE 083590

2. OUR DATT WILL BE REPORTING HIS TALKS WITH THE MILITARY IN JOUNIEH. I TOOK HIM WITH ME FOR THAT PURPOSE. ESSENCE OF HIS REPORT IS THAT CHRISTIAN REMNANTS OF THE LEBANESE ARMED FORCES IN THAT AREA ARE SMALL IN NUMBER AND ARE LOOSELY STRUCTURED. HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF THE SENIOR CHRISTIAN OFFICERS HAD ASSUMED COMBAT AND LOGISTICAL ROLES ON THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITY IN THE DEFENSE OF THE CHRISTIAN HEARTLAND AND SEEM TO BE PERFORMING A CREDITABLE JOB DESPITE SERIOUS PERSONNEL AND SUPPLY SHORTAGES. THE LEBANESE NAVY AT JOUNIEH IS RELATIVELY INTACT BUT PASSIVE. THE ARMY CASERNE AT SARBA IS BEING USED JOINTLY BY CHRISTIAN ARMY AND MILITIAL ELEMENTS. ITS COMMANDER IS PERFORMING MAINTENANCE AND RE-SUPPLY FUNCTIONS FOR COMBAT DETACHMENTS WHICH ARE DISPERSED ALONG THE DEFENSIVE PERIMETER OF CHRISTIAN TERRITORY. THERE ARE SERIOUS SHORTAGES IN GASOLINE AND CERTAIN TYPES OF AMMUNITION, PARTICULARLY ARTILLERY AMMUNITION. BUT IN DATT'S ESTIMATE, CHRISTIAN FORCES SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONDUCT DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS SUCCESSFULLY FOR A PERIOD OF 5-7 DAYS AT LEVELS EXPERIENCED IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO APRIL TRUCE. BROWN UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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